November 2007
Certified politically correct
100% FREE *RAG* CONTENT

Depot Town Rag

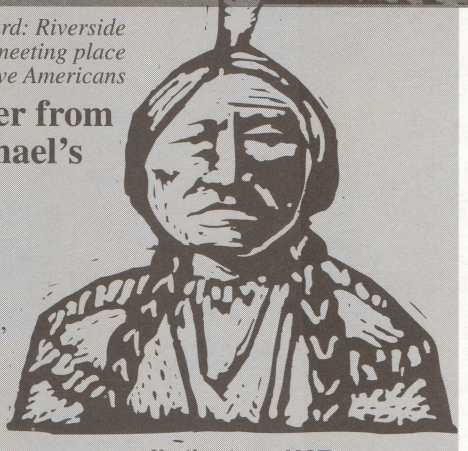
Volume 22, Number 9

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC. The Old Caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198

Depot Town's backyard: Riverside Park hs been called a meeting place for Native Americans

Which character from Hoagy Carmichael's popular song *NEVER LIVED IN YPSILANTI*?

"There's a doctor livin'
in your town
There's a lawyer and
an Indian, too
And neither doctor, lawyer
nor Injun chief
could blah, blah, blah...
'Cause you Know! Know! Know!
it couldn't be true...."



Ypsilanti was NOT an "Indian Chief," regardless what you think your third grade teacher told you! Demetrius Ypsilantis was a general in the 1824 Greek War for Independence.

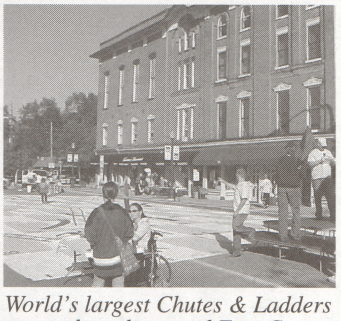
INDIANS!

What will we tell the tots when it's Thankgiving?

They made history in the District

September's big Fallapalooza event brought hundreds out to play what may be recorded as the largest Chutes & Ladders game in history in front of the old Follett House Hotel in Ypsilanti's historic Depot Town.

Shannon Gordon and the Ypsilanti JayCees thank the many sponsors and helpers who made the day such a great success.



World's largest Chutes & Ladders game board covered East Cross Street from curb to curb

Native American observations were recorded here

-From *Lest It Be Forgotten*, by Gertrude Hiscock Nanry, 1987

Indian life in the woods

Over the centuries the Indians who assembled for pow-wow gatherings near Gabriel Godfroy's fur trading post [Riverside Park], now Ypsilanti, left many trails that became our main roads branching out of Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor.

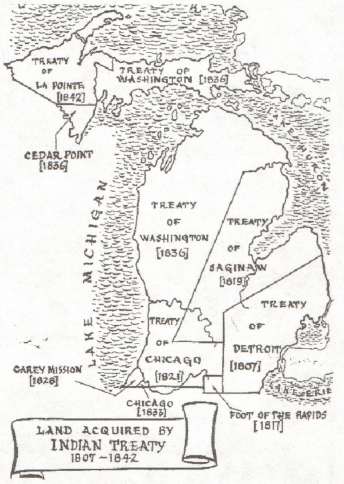
At these pow-wows, a ceremony planned by the Indians following success in war between tribes or having a superb day of hunting for food, mainly deer, was marked by feasting, performing ritual dances, and whooping loud cries as they chanted in unison their words of joy late into the night….

Jacques Marquette, a French missionary, explorer, and a Jesuit priest, established a mission at Sault Sainte Marie for the Indians in 1668. With Louis Jolliet, a Frenchman born in Canada, the two men established the existence of a natural waterway from St. Lawrence River in Quebec to the Gulf of Mexico. Again, the Indians provided the canoes and paddles down the Mississippi…

1701: Cadillac set out from Montreal with fifty soldiers, fifty *coeuriers de bois* (rangers of the woods) and one hundred Indians, in twenty-five canoes….

The Indians laughed at the pioneers' stick-plow pulled by a horse and the big ditch the plow made to put the seeds in without fish. And they made fun of the "horse-strap harness." Yet, each year the Indians shared red-beans, pumpons (pumpkins), squash , yellow maize-corn, and bulbous roots of the eastern sunflower to keep their European neighbors from starving. The Indians showed the Europeans how to catch fish and freeze

[continued overleaf]


TREATY OF LA POINTE [1842]
TREATY OF WASHINGTON [1836]
CEDAR POINT [1836]
LAKE MICHIGAN
TREATY OF WASHINGTON [1836]
TREATY OF SAGINAW [1819]
TREATY OF CHICAGO [1821]
TREATY OF DETROIT [1807]
CAREY MISSION [1826]
CHICAGO [1685]
FOOT OF THE RAPIDS [1817]
LAND ACQUIRED BY INDIAN TREATY 1807 - 1842

Land Acquired by Indian Treaty 1807-1842 from Michigan in Four Centuries, *by F. Clever Bald. Copyright 1954, 1861 by Munson Michigan History Fund, reprinted by permission of Harper and Row, Publisher, Inc.*

Artrain carries the native message

32 years ago, Artrain made is first stop—in Ypsilanti's Depot Town. This year, Artrain USA carries its current show to depots in Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Ohio.

Artrain USA is currently showcasing Native Views: Influences of Modern Culture, a contemporary Native American art exhibition. Comprised of 71 artworks by 54 Native American artists, Native Views explores the influence of popular culture and the many commonalities shared by all Americans.

Visitors discover the richness, complexity and breadth of contemporary Native American art while examining varying perspectives on society. Guest curator, Joanna Bigfeather (Western Cherokee and Mescalero Apache) redefines Native art by broadening the limits and confronting the stereotypes that currently define it.

Native Americans seen here

[continued from pge 1]

them and stack them near the cabin for snow time use…

In 1824 farmland was sold for $1.25 an acre. Issac Hiscock, Sr. (from the author's line) was a buyer in 1826 of property near the bridge on Le Forge Road, presently Ypsilanti, Michigan. The area was first known as Godfroy Trading Post in 1809. In 1823 it was known as Woodruff's Grove and in 1825 the village was named Ypsilanti…

The Indian burying ground on the east bank of Saline River south of the village shows evidence of their settlement. Pioneers note in 1831 the ruins of a well and reports for fifty years state that salt was made there.

From John Geddes account of pole-boating up to Woodruff's Grove (1822):

"It began to snow and the trail filled over, and I found myself in a black-ash swamp (Black Swamp west of Ypsilanti). I was without light or fire. I hitched my pony to a tree, and the wolves began to howl, howl, howl! They came boldly to the pony and snapped at him behind the knees. He kicked and called for me; I was unable to help. The pony was badly bitten, which went on all night long. I thought light would never come. Then I heard dogs barking. I went to the sound—was an Indian encampment who came to help, fed me, and put me on the trail to Saline."

Potawatomi traditional design

Indians came to Willow Run

-from Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections, McMATH, John Watson, born July 3, 1824, Romulus, New York.

"The old territorial road, but little used after the building of the Chicago road, was the route usually taken by the Indians, then roaming over this part of the territory, when going to and returning from Detroit, to obtain their annuities from the general government.

Their pilgrimage was made in the fall, and they went in bands numbering from fifty to five hundred, counting squaws, pappooses [sic]and ponies, and not counting the dogs. While on the march they were generally quiet and orderly, marching always single file, each pony carrying a squaw, two or three pappooses [sic], and a lot of camping utensils.

They often camped near our house in the woods a little to the east, and when they had no liquor, they were quiet and peaceful, but this seldom happened.

Whisky was cheap then and, if possible, more easily obtained than now, and it required but a very small quantity of whisky to cause a very large drunk among the noble red man, and then the very mischief was to pay; quarreling and fighting was in order and they made night hideous with their racket…"

And, over in Dexter

-Source: Dexter Area Historical Society
In her June 12, 1895 address to the Pioneer Society, Mrs. Julia Dexter Stannard recalled encounters with Native Americans in at her father's [Judge Dexter] pioneer home:

"Indians had a camp near the junction of Mill Creek and the Huron River, and were very friendly, bringing cranberries and venison to exchange for potatoes, pork and break, and for the children they brought little boxes made of birch bark worked with porcupine quills, brightly colored, and the boxes filled with new maple sugar."

A later sighting

The following report, transcribed by Wystan Stevens, is an excerpt from a letter from a traveler in Michigan, first published in 1835 in a tabloid: the New-York Mirror, *July 25, 1835.*

"When about twenty miles from Ann Arbour we met the wretched remnant of a tribe of Indians. They were very fantastically dressed -- some in gaudy calicoes, with a bright red, or yellow handkerchief about their heads, and some with the old-fashioned blanket wrapped about them, while several of the children were nearly naked; the girls being dressed in calico frocks, reaching within a few inches of the knee. The Indians here seem to wear no particular costume, and greedily pick up the more showy odds and ends of civilized garbs...

"The group that I now fell in with reminded me of the ancient gipsies. The same swarthy complexions and raven hair, the same patched and tattered garments, and the same apparent wretchedness. The women and children were all mounted on little shaggy Indian ponies, guiltless of the currycomb...

"…The cruel, but necessary policy of our government, has already stripped them off their broad lands, and curtailed their liberties -- nay, it has even bargained for the removal of their persons, and the poor Indian cannot resist, and he must wander far away, a hapless outcast from the home of his fathers!"

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It's a gamble

"[Las Vegas] transformed America, with its mysterious allure, sexual energy, and association with glitzy entertainment," says John Tirman in *100 Ways America is Screwing up the World*. "It now sets out to take that on the road, to every place that is capable of imitation."

Detroit now has three active Indian tribes and, after five elections, it appears the voting is finally over and the "temporary" casinos are here to stay. Cruise ships and the Internet extend the franchise even farther.

If Romulus is looking for land for a new reservation, can Ypsilanti be far behind?

Can we find a Huron to open a casino?

"Huron" was an insult

The Huron name came from Europeans (lexically from French *huré*, bristly,' 'bristled,' from *hure*, rough hair' (of the head), head of man or beast, wild boar's head; old French, 'muzzle of the wolf, lion,' etc., 'the scalp,' 'a wig'; Norman French, *huré*, 'rugged'; Roumanian, *hurée*, 'rough earth,' and the suffix *-on*, expressive of depreciation and employed to form nouns referring to persons.)

The name Huron, frequently with an added epithet, like villain or 'base,' was in use in France as early as 1358 as a name expressive of contempt and insult, signifying an unkempt person, knave, ruffian, lout, or wretch.

Gone before colonial rule

The scraggly Huron tribes were decimated by the hostile Iroquois long before European colonists settled the East Coast.

The Huron Villages

The 52 known Huron villages included Brownstown and Sandusky, the only place names continuing into modern history.

Huron Indian Clans

Nothing definite was known of the clans of the Hurons until the appearance of *Morgan's Ancient Society* in 1877,- Powell's *Wyandot Government*, and Connolley's *The Wyandots*.

Godfroy's Trading Post could be totally updated to fit on the Water Street Project site

The Huron Riverside Rialto

We need another Native American gambling casino for the mathematically challenged!

It's close to the Interstate, there's a Native American tradition of hometown teams disappearing, and we sure could use the money! What the heck? Let's open yet another "gaming parlor" in place of the proposed Water Street Development to separate those suckers from their cash.

Add enough glitzy lights and flashing bells and the atmosphere would be a great improvement to Ypsilanti's dismal downtown flood plain. Those poor folks dozing at the handle of a slot machine cannot sleep long enough to qualify as legal residents, so the ground pollution won't affect them—legally.

The Ypsilanti name will easily fool any gullible* legislators who thought it was an "Indian" name in the first place. Just look at the adjacent neighborhoods in Atlantic City, New Jersey; Las Vegas and Reno, Nevada. Could Ypsilanti do worse?

Since we've cleaned up Depot Town, Ypsilanti has enjoyed three decades of de-centralized crime with a crack house, a numbers operation, and streetside prostitution in almost every surrounding neighborhood. It's time to bring back good old *centralized* crime and tax it for the public good.

Encourage your City Councilmembers to turn the southeastern corner of Ypsi into the profit pit it rightfully deserves to be.

** Did you know the word "gullible" is not even in the dictionary? Don't believe it? Look it up!*

What might an Ypsi casino look like?

In *Everything and a Kite*, Ray Romano gives a preview:

"They've [Las Vegas casinos] all got a big attraction to pull you in. The Mirage has a replica of an active volcano in the front, and glass-caged white tigers in the lobby.

"What the hell does all that have to do with Vegas?

"My opinion? Your best bet is to go a few blocks off the strip and find one of the little mom and pop casinos. Something small and quaint and comfortable.

"They don't have much. Sure, they try and compete with the Mirage. They've got a white hamster in the lobby. If you need to see an animal, there's your animal. There's no volcano, either. The owner might backfire his truck in the parking lot.

It's not glamorous, but at least the guy at the front desk knows your name."

[Could we do any worse with the Water Street property?]

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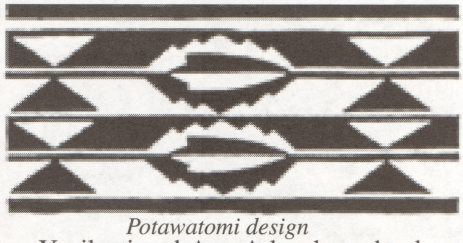
Trails in the Woods

-from Gertrude Nanry



Potawatomi design

The Indians—after centuries of trekking across the Territorial state in every conceivable direction imaginable—made hundreds of knee-deep trails which the pioneers used. By 1821 the influx of foreigners in the area seeking trails to their purchased lot or farm near Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor brought about the problem of moving their homestead articles to the spot. At best, the Indian trails were difficult to travel over…

Sauk Fox design

…Indian Trails fanned out of Detroit. One Indian trail is presently Joy Road, branching off Grand River in Detroit to Dixboro. In Dixboro, coach horses were changed at one of two blacksmith shops, while passengers waited in taverns…

…The Indians had formed a knee-deep trail out of Ypsilanti, now Packard Road, that continued north at Broadway in Ann Arbor. This trail winding around hills to Whitmore Lake, led to the trails in Holly and Flint areas. …

…The Michigan Avenue Indian Trail out of Detroit on Old U.S. 12 continued west into Ypsilanti where the left trail continued west until reaching the wild onion fields presently known as Chicago. The Indian trail to the right out of Ypsilanti is thought to have continued on Huron Street winding its way around the steep hills to Geddes Road and on to Fuller Road and Maiden Lane in Ann Arbor...

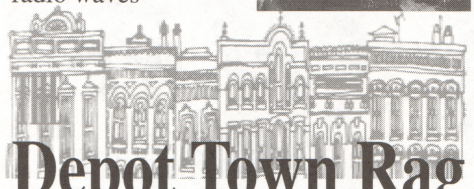
...The crossing of two Indian Trails nestled in the wilderness of N.W. Territorial Michigan, that became platted in 1826 as the Village of Dixboro…

Learn more in *Thirty Years with Indians* by Henry Schoolcraft, American ethnographer and geologist, 1857

Engraving of Schoolcraft (1793-1864) who married the half-Ojibwa daughter of a fur trader. He was a pioneer in Native American studies, an Indian agent, and geologist. A college, highway, and county honor him.

In the next *Rag*:

When Santa came to Depot Town—neither by sleigh nor Coca Cola ads, nor slight of hand—but by the magic of radio waves



Depot Town Rag

"All the news that fits, we print"
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the Depot Town Association, Inc.
The Old Caboose, 400 Market Place
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To the editor:
thomasdodd@comcast.net

The Depot Town Association, Inc.

Gary McKeever, President
Merrel Guerra,Vice President
Carole Clare, Treasurer
Sandee French, Scy. & Past President
Website: www.depottown.org
DTA meets at 6:30 p.m on the third Wednesday of each month at Café Luwak, 42 East Cross Street.

No-cost Depot Town Email service tells our story

Permission-based Depot Town Email has been extended into its second year. The new name will be "Depot Town Happenings." Please send announcements of events or special sales each month and include the following:

• *Date & time* • *Business* • *Event or special sale* • *and up to five lines of text*

Email your information to depottown_events @yahoo.com

At this time this is a free service to DTA members and is paid from the DTA Marketing Fund and $20 for each ad for non-members. If you have not paid your dues, please send a check to 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, MI 48198 (attn. Carole) or drop it in the mail slot at the Old Caboose on Rice Street.

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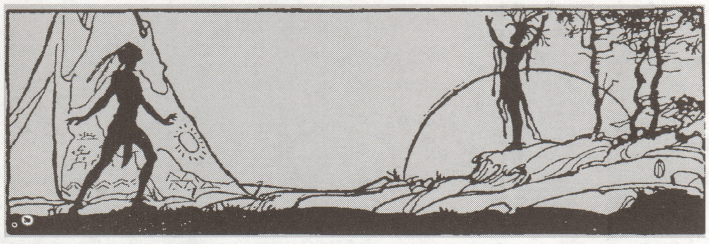
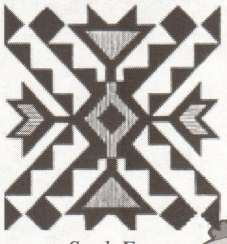


"If the Aborigine drafted an I.Q. test, all of Western civilization would presumably flunk it."
–Stanley Garn

"There are many humorous things in the world, among them the white man's notion that he is less savage than the other savages." *– Mark Twain*



Sauk Fox

Excerpts from Bill Shea's story in *Crain's Detroit Business*, September 10, 2007

The Next Ann Arbor?

Ypsilanti hopes to learn from its neighbor

Ann Arbor's success at attracting new, diverse investment is held aloft as proof Michigan cities can blossom amid the domestic auto industry's tribulations.

Now, local leaders hope, it's neighboring Ypsilanti's turn.

Cheaper real estate, a major university and the same talent pool from which Ann Arbor draws are the selling points Ypsilanti business and civic leaders plan to use in efforts to attract new investment and jobs.

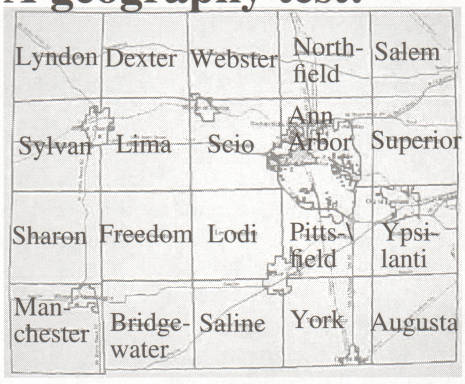
… Developer Stewart Beal has been in the forefront of new private projects in the city because he believes Ypsilanti is ripe for investment.

… Beal's latest Ypsi project is the Thompson Block redevelopment in the city's Depot Town area, turning a collection of former Civil War barracks into 16 loft apartments atop 10,000 square feet of commercial space. The $4 million project is slated to open in 2008.

… Depot Town is a three-block area redevelopment of a run-down former railroad area into a regional attraction of niche shops and automotive history attractions. Primarily redeveloped by the neighborhood's business owners and residents, Depot Town is considered a second downtown and serves as a model of how to improve a commercial district, said Cheryl Farmer, who served as the city's mayor for 11 years until 2006.

… "We need Ypsilanti to be viable. It's the perfect location for young talent to live," said David Behlen, deputy county administrator. "But we need to link Ypsilanti to the rest of the region, Behlen said. "It does have its issues, but it does have its infrastructure—the downtown."

A geography test:



Any Native American names among the county's 20 townships? *Nope; not even Lodi, named for the Lodi Plain. "LOW-die" is the name of several places: a dynasty in India, and an annual festival in the Indian state of Punjab. In Italy's Lombardy region, the Treaty of Lodi was made in 1454 between Italian city-states.*

Ypsilanti was not a chief and Washtenaw was not a tribe

-Wystan Stevens

"Washtenaw" is a variation of the term "Washtenong--seebe," meaning "far country," or "the land beyond," which was employed by Indians living near Detroit to describe to settlers and explorers there the area of the interior of the lower peninsula watered by the Grand River. The Grand River ultimately flows westward, but it begins in what is now Jackson County. Thus the name really is not appropriate for the area it currently identifies—"our" area—an anomaly accounted for by the fact that the original Washtenaw County, as defined in 1822 for purposes of territorial administration, encompassed what is now Jackson County, as well as parts of several other adjacent counties.

As the population in these regions grew, they were legally enabled to establish self government, and broke off from the mother county (that is, us), which of course got whittled down to its present borders—borders which, while no doubt quite satisfactory to our happy citizens, do not include anything that aborigines in these parts intended by the term "Washtenong."

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• DTCDC to manage our adjacent City Parks

The newly formed Depot Town Community Development Corporation has agreed with the City of Ypsilanti to manage and maintain Riverside and Frog Island parks. As the City struggles with its finances, the DTCDC plans to bring in $1.8 million in grants through its nonprofit status. Income from this summer's Michigan Elvisfest helped to initiate the effort.

• Railroad tracks under new management too

Michigan Central Railway LLC plans to spend $11.5 million during its first five years of operating these railroad tracks from Ypsilanti to Kalamazoo according to a new agreement with Amtrak. A Detroit/Ann Arbor commuter is expected to return after improvements are made.

• Esquire's building for lease

Ted Barron will put his Depot Town building at 10 East Cross up for lease Esquire Interiors moves to Jackson Road. #10 is one of the few locations on the block with a close-up view of the Huron River and Riverside Park. Two units - 860 sq.ft. each, one 960 sq. ft, and one 1400 sq. ft.

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RAGTIME

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30 November
Moonlight Madness
Specials in our stores and restaurants
Christmas carolers invited
Tree Lighting at "dark:30"

1 December, 5 p.m.
Depot Town's annual
Window Judging
Extra credit for railroad themes

Candlelight Holiday Homes Tour
1 December, 7 p.m.-10 p.m.

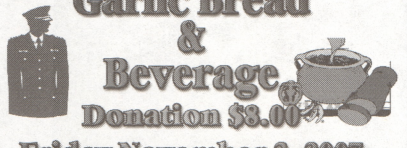
Holiday Homes Tour
2 December, Noon - 5:30 p.m.

31 December
New Year Jubilee
of Southeast Michigan

Family-friendly events

Citizens' Police Academy Chili Fund Raiser

Regular & Vegetarain Garlic Bread & Beverage



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2008 advertising in *The Depot Town Rag*

Contracts are due December 1, 2007

For more information, contact the editor: thomasdodd@comcast.net or 734-434-6467

Realkidz Clothing brings back unique shopping concept

Merrill Guerra is CEO and founder of realkidz clothing, a unique showroom for quality children's clothes at 35 East Cross. Beginning this month and following the tradition of L.L. Bean, Mary Kay, Sierra Trading Post, and Avon, shoppers can examine the goods from designs and displays in realkidz' showroom and order any size they wish direct from the manufacturer while on site.

Guerra is finishing her MBA from UM and brought her family to the Midwest in 2000 after living in California, Illinois, Tennessee, and Washington states. "We came to dinner one night at Cady's and I saw the 'For Rent' sign in the window across the street," she remembers. "That's when I knew I didn't want to start my business in some strip mall. I want to be a part of Depot Town."

Guerra's two children attend Bessie Hoffman elementary in the Lincoln School District.

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